Extradition Treaties with Foreign Countries

160.SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1840 and Starred Question 479 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March and 8th May, 1997, respectively, and state;

(a) whether Government have recently signed a treaty with the United States of America for extradition of fugitive offenders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of other countries with whom India has signed such treaties and to what extent such treaties have been effective in eliminating terrorism;

(d) what are the names of the countries with whom extradition treaties are yet to be signed; and

(e) what are the names of the countries with whom such treaties are proposed to be signed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The new extradition treaty between India and U.S.A. was signed on 25.06.1997. The treary is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification between India and U.S.A. On becoming operative this treaty will replace the 1931 extradition treaty between U.S.A. and U.K., acceded to by India and currently in force between India and U.S.A. Main features of the treaty signed recently include the following;

(i) Under the treaty, each country will obligate itself to extradite fugitive offenders accused or convicted of offences punishable by more then one year in its jurisdiction.

(ii) The treaty provides procedures for either Government to arrest fugitives immediately on the request of the other Government to prevent fugitives from fleeing.

(iii) It also provides for legal basis for temporarily surrendering prisoners who stand trial for crime against the laws of the Requesting State.

(iv) The fugitives will be extraditable under the treaty regardless of their nationality.

(c) In addition to USA, Governments has signed extradition treaties with Canada, U.K., Nepal, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Bhutan and Hong Kong. The treaty with Hong Kong signed on 28.06.1997 has not yet entered into force. As extradition treaties provide for extradition of fugitive criminals who commit grave offences such as, murder, manslaughter, etc. and take shelter in other countries, the treaties are effective in deterring such terrorist activities.

(d) India has not signed extradition treaty with any country other than those specified at (c) above.

(e) The only treaty proposed to be signed this year is the Extradition Treaty with the Russian Federation, which has already been finalised and is ready for signing.

Ballistic Missile Test by Pakistan

161. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has recently test-fired a Ballistic Missile which has a range of 800 Kms;

(b) whether Government propose to take appropriate counter measures to safeguard India's security in the light of the reported missile test by Pakistan; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Government is deeply concerned over reports in the Pakistan media that Pakistan has test fired a medium-range missile.

(b) and (c) Govenrment closely monitors all developments including those relating to Pakistan's missile programme. Government remains fully committed to taking all steps necessary for safeguarding India's security and national interest against all eventualities.

Indo-Pak Agreement to Set-up working Groups on outstanding issues on J & K

162. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan had after their second round of talks held recently, decided to set-up sight working groups to address outstanding issues, including the most countentious issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pakistan's Prime Minister, while commenting on this agreement, had said that it was the first time India has recognised Kashmir as disputed and if so, whether this is in contravention of the hitherto unequivocal stand of India that India will never compromise her stand on this issue; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) Joint Statement was issued on June 23, 1997 at Islamabad on the conclusion of the second round of the resumed Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan. The two sides decided to address, inter alia, the following subjects:(a) Peace and security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. They also agreed to set up a mechanism, including working groups at appropriate levels, to address all these issues in an integrated manner; the issues at (a) and (b) above will be dealt at the level of the Foreign Secretaries, who will also coordinate and monitor the progress of all the working groups. Both sides further agreed to tak all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and provocative actions against each other. It would be observed that Jammu and Kashmir will be addressed directly by the Foreign Secretaries themselves.

(c) and (d) The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. This constitutional and legal status of the State is embedded in the constitution of India itself. It has also been reflected in the national will as contained in the Parliamentary Resolutions of 1994. There has not been and cannot be any departure from this basic position notwithstanding any Statement or comment which may come from any foreign quarter.

Threat to Indian Cities by Pak Missiles

163. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the "Pioneer" dated 4th July, 1997 under the caption "Key cities, N-installations arms depots with Pak missile's range—Threat to nation's security".;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the details of fresh diplomatic initiatives taken to mitigate the threat perception on this account; and

(d) what is the present status in regard to response from Pakistan?